

LYONS WOULD CEDE WHARF IN BRONX

Reverses His Imperialistic Policy in Making Offer to Manhattan

For the first time in his imperialist career Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx is anxious to cede territory instead of annexing it. In a letter yesterday to John McKenzie, Commissioner of Docks, Mr. Lyons presented a large section of bulkhead on the Bronx side of the Harlem River at 149th Street, free of charge, to Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan.

This unusual largesse was prompted by a letter to the Borough President on Dec. 20 from Mr. McKenzie, who advised him that it would be a good idea to make repairs along a ninety-foot section of the bulkhead. He asked Mr. Lyons to submit plans.

Instead of submitting plans, the Bronx expansionist replied in his letter that, according to Section 704B of the City Charter, it was the duty of the Dock Department to repair wharf property. Furthermore, he added, if it was the responsibility of a Borough President, it was a job for Mr. Isaacs because the bulkhead was in Manhattan territory, as defined by the Administrative Code.

In well-informed quarters this move by Mr. Lyons was taken as an indication that revolutionary nihilism in the Bronx was on the wane. The Third Bronx is now entering its second stage. The first stage was marked by a violent expansionist movement, which included two abortive attempts at Anschluss with Marble Hill in Manhattan and a militant effort to wrest part of La Guardia Field from Queens.

Now, with more conservative voices prevailing in the Lyons regime, the movement has not only stopped, but gone into reverse.

Mr. Lyons enclosed a photostatic copy of a map in his letter to Mr. McKenzie to prove the bulkhead was in Manhattan territory. The Administrative Code, he explained to reporters, describes the eastern boundary of Manhattan as an imaginary line "along the low water mark on the eastern bank of the Harlem River to the Bronx Kills."

The present bulkhead line, he added, is about fifty feet west of this boundary line at 149th Street and, therefore, in Manhattan.

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